

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A vehicle-operation assist for a vehicle mounted with a camera, said vehicle operation assist comprising:

an imaging unit operable to generate a circumferential-state imaging-image using an output image from the camera, said means-for imaging-a circumferential state image viewed from a virtual viewpoint, said virtual viewpoint being different from a viewpoint of the of-a vehicle-with-a-camera-and-generating-a circumferential-state image;

a synthetic-image generating means-unit operable to generate for-generating-a synthetic image using-by-superimposing-with-respect-to-the circumferential-state image, and an assumed-movement pattern image which is based shows-a future movement-of the vehicle-in performing-a predetermined-series-of-on a driving operation[[s]] for-of the vehicle; and the assumed-movement pattern-of the vehicle-is the future movement-of the vehicle-from a current position-of the vehicle; and

a displaying-display means-unit operable for-to displaydisplaying the synthetic image, wherein

said synthetic image shows a future movement of the vehicle along a predetermined path between a starting point and an ending point when parking the vehicle.

2. - 4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) The vehicle-operation assist according to claim 3-or-4, characterized-in-that1, wherein

the circumferential state image viewed from a predetermined viewpoint ~~is as a point~~
~~fixed to the~~ three-dimensional space or the vehicle, and

~~the a viewpoint converting means-unit is included that~~ changes the predetermined
viewpoint automatically or through an input from a driver.

6. - 7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) The vehicle-operation assist according to claim 6,
~~characterized in that~~ 1, wherein

the assumed-movement pattern image includes virtual poles arranged on the outer edge
of the vehicle movement area.

9. (Currently Amended) The vehicle-operation assist according to claim 6,
~~characterized in that~~ 1, wherein

the synthetic-image generating ~~means-unit~~ superimposes a current-position data ~~serving~~
~~as an area~~ in which the vehicle is present, on the circumferential-state image to generate the
synthetic image.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) The vehicle-operation assist according to claim 6,
~~characterized in that~~ 1, wherein when actual driving operations corresponding to ~~the above~~
predetermined series of driving operations are started,

the synthetic-image generating ~~means thereafter~~ unit fixes ~~the a~~ positional relation
between the assumed-movement pattern image and the circumferential-state image at ~~the a~~
point of time when the actual driving operations are started and generates the synthetic image.

12. (Currently Amended) The vehicle-operation assist according to claim 11,
~~characterized in that~~ wherein

a positional-information storing means-unit is included which stores positional information of the whole or a part of the assumed-movement pattern image with regard to the ~~basis of the whole~~ or a part of the video data for the circumferential-state image on the synthetic image when the actual driving operations are started, and

the synthetic-image generating means-unit fixes the positional relation in accordance with the positional information.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) The vehicle-operation assist according to claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~ 1, wherein

a final-position inputting means-unit for inputting a final position which is a position of the vehicle at end of the movement and a start-position determining means-unit for obtaining a start position which is a position at start of the movement corresponding to the input final position in accordance with ~~the an~~ assumed-movement pattern are included, and

the synthetic-image generating means-unit superimposes the input final position and the start position corresponding to the input final position on the circumferential-state image to generate the synthetic image.

15. (Currently Amended) The vehicle-operation assist according to claim 14 ~~characterized in that~~ wherein

a start-position guiding means-unit is included which guides the vehicle to the start position by automatically controlling driving of the vehicle.

16. (Currently Amended) The vehicle-operation assist according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4,~~ characterized in that claim 1, wherein

an assumed-movement-pattern storing means-unit ~~is included which holds data relating to the above predetermined series of driving operations and holds assumed movement data including at least the~~ a plurality of assumed-movement patterns.

17. (Currently Amended) The vehicle-operation assist according to claim 16, ~~characterized in that~~wherein

the assumed-movement-pattern storing ~~means-unit~~ holds a plurality of assumed-movement patterns, and

a pattern selecting ~~means-unit~~ is included which automatically selects the assumed-movement pattern through an input from a driver or a predetermined driving operations.

18. (Currently Amended) The vehicle-operation assist according to claim 16, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ a pattern correcting ~~means-unit~~ is included which ~~is able to update~~updates and ~~correct the~~corrects content of the assumed-movement patterns ~~held stored~~ in the assumed-movement-pattern storing ~~means~~unit.

19. (Currently Amended) The vehicle-operation assist according to claim 18, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the pattern correcting ~~means-unit~~ updates and corrects the assumed-movement patterns ~~and/or the assumed-movement data~~ in accordance with the vehicle positions at start and end of the corrected movement input from a driver.

20. (Currently Amended) The vehicle-operation assist according to claim 18, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the pattern correcting ~~means-unit~~ updates and corrects the assumed-movement patterns ~~and/or the assumed-movement data~~ in accordance with an actual driving operation.

21. - 23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently Amended) The vehicle-operation assist according to claim 5, wherein ~~characterized in that~~

when the viewpoint converting ~~means-unit~~ changes the predetermined viewpoint, the viewpoint converting ~~means-unit~~ fixes the predetermined viewpoint to the vehicle before the actual driving operations corresponding to the predetermined series of driving operations are started and changes the predetermined viewpoint to a point fixed to the three-dimensional

space after the actual driving operations corresponding to the predetermined series of driving operations are started.

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Currently Amended) The vehicle-operation assist according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that~~claim 1, wherein the assumed-movement pattern image includes a circumscribed area on a space through which the vehicle passes when ~~the a~~a predetermined series of driving operations are performed.

27. - 28. (Cancelled)

29. (Currently Amended) The vehicle-operation assist according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that~~claim 1, wherein the assumed-movement ~~patterns respectively~~pattern image ~~include~~includes a change from a backward movement to a forward movement or from a forward movement to a backward movement in ~~the a~~a predetermined series of driving operations.

30. (Currently Amended) The vehicle-operation assist according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that~~claim 1 wherein an obstacle inputting ~~means-unit~~is included which is able to input a position of an obstacle area in an image to ~~displaying means~~the display unit for displaying the synthetic image ~~from a driver~~.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Currently Amended) The vehicle-operation assist according to claim 18, ~~characterized in that~~wherein

the pattern correcting ~~means-unit~~updates and corrects the assumed-movement patterns ~~and/or the assumed-movement data~~ in accordance with a position of an obstacle area input from a driver; ~~and~~

~~obstacle inputting means is included which is able to input a position of an obstacle in an image to displaying means for displaying the synthetic image from a driver.~~

33. - 36. (Cancelled)

37. (Currently Amended) A method of vehicle operation assist comprising the steps of:

(a) imaging a circumferential state of a vehicle;

(b) generating a circumferential-state image of the vehicle as viewed from a virtual viewpoint based on the imaging of step (a), wherein the generated circumferential-state image provides a current position of the vehicle;

(c) ~~generating a synthetic image of the vehicle by superimposing an assumed movement pattern of the vehicle with respect to the circumferential state image, wherein the assumed movement pattern of the vehicle is a future movement of the vehicle from a the~~
current position of the vehicle with respect to a future movement of the vehicle, wherein the future movement of the vehicle is obtained from a series of driving operations for the vehicle, the series of driving operations providing desired movements of the vehicle along a predetermined path between a starting point and an ending point when parking the vehicle;
and

(d) displaying the synthetic image of the vehicle.

38. - 42. (Cancelled)